

ArtsUp encourages interaction between artists and communities

By Lisa Richmond and Karen L. Bystrom, Seattle Arts Commission

Seattle is a dynamic urban environment, with a richly textured history, and a population continually redefined by rapid change. We may come from many different backgrounds but we agree that art can be a vehicle to help us explore our community concerns and identity.

Art can help articulate community identity and values. It can tell local stories, give voice to citizens, or create a forum for group expression and action. It can help honor our history or establish icons for our future.

Art, created in collaboration with members of the community, can make a powerful statement about the value of our multi-faceted heritage and the difficulty of maintaining a sense of place and identity amidst our society's economic and social changes.

The Seattle Arts Commission puts these beliefs into action through ARTS UP (Artist Residencies Transforming Seattle's Urban Places).



Courtland Action Team members celebrate the success of their community projects.

ARTS UP, designed to encourage creative interaction between artists and communities, teams community groups with artists to produce art projects exploring community issues. This unique program defines community very broadly, not only by geographic or ethnic boundaries but also by shared interests or lived experience. The Seattle Arts Commission seeks to recognize our city's diversity and complexity in the selection of communities for ARTS UP.

Nine community partners, a wide spectrum of groups, have been matched with artists selected for the ARTS UP roster. Among these communities are three Seattle neighborhoods.

Courtland Action Team: This small residential area in southeast Seattle is working with visual artist Donald Fels of Seattle. The group is interested in exploring one of

IN THE ARTISTS' WORDS

"I am very interested in the intersection between art and the 'real world', and the often unrecognized cultural space between. The issues are always interwoven and convoluted, and take time to unravel. But I continue to find the complexity to offer especially fertile ground for making art."

— Donald Fels

"Art is the most powerful tool for communicating with people and challenging them to see the world differently. Amazing things happen when thoughtful work is situated in public places."

— Brett Bloom

"Artwork which necessitates research and the involvement of others is frequently the most rewarding. Some of my favorite pieces have been set designs and other collaborative works, for they introduce the unanticipated and force me to explore beyond the boundaries of what I know."

— Kathryn Rathke

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several issues: celebrating community efforts that have reshaped the neighborhood; addressing community identity, in particular involving the diverse immigrant populations in the area; or looking at physical issues, including a planned hill climb, longed-for streetscape improvements, and new development.

Community members chose Fels based on his past work — with its references to history, place, and culture — as well as his strong interest in community collaboration. Much of his work has dealt with industrial history, and has been created out of a long-term commitment to knowing and understanding the community in which he is working. Past projects have included work about the salmon industry in Seattle, tin and rubber workers in Malaysia, and a steel mill in Italy.

Friends of Belltown P-Patch: As development encroaches and rents rise in what has long been an artists' haven,



Belldtown P-Patch exhibits a vibrant range of permanent artworks, including this well-known mosaic at Western & Vine.

opportunity for true community activities has become more important to the Belltown area's residents, as has a desire to preserve and nurture the artistic character of the neighborhood. The P-Patch is home to individual vegetable and flower plots, a vibrant range of permanent artworks and three historic cottages. The P-Patch also serves as a community gathering place. The P-Patch gardeners have chosen to collaborate

with Chicago artist Brett Bloom.

Bloom's temporary and permanent public art works reflect his interest in political activism. His work has been directly engaged with communities in addressing issues such as urban development, democracy, and prejudice. Witty, interactive and conceptual, his work is often the result of a collaborative process with members of the community.

Georgetown Crime Prevention & Community Council: Georgetown has been through many incarnations in the last 200 years, its history largely hidden from current residents and visitors. Now an intimate neighborhood of early 1900s homes surrounded by industrial buildings, Georgetown has existed as important tribal land, a fertile agricultural area, and a town with its own town center. The area is changing yet again: artists and

young people are seeking out housing and live-work space in Georgetown.

The neighborhood's eclectic mix of residents will work with Seattle artist Kathryn Rathke to



The Georgetown Crime Prevention & Community Council will work to preserve Georgetown's rich history.

help ensure that the history of their community is maintained and made visible, that a sense of place be developed so that visitors can recognize Georgetown as a neighborhood, and that future development enhances the Georgetown's small town feel.

As a set designer, Rathke is interested in event and spectacle. She enjoys working with and involving groups of people. Her work with a community might manifest itself in myriad ways, incorporating elements such as floats, banners, costumes, or performance.

Artists have also been matched to projects with Kawabe Memorial House, Neighborhood House, Queen City Community Development, Sacajawea Elementary School, and Seattle Native American Youth.

Soon the Arts Commission will announce the next six community groups that will participate in ARTS UP in 2001. The Commission will select six additional groups in spring 2002. Any community interested in working with an artist or team of artists in an open-ended collaboration should contact Seattle Arts Commission.

For more information, call Lisa Richmond, Seattle Arts Commission, at (206) 684-0998 or send e-mail to lisa.richmond@ci.seattle.wa.us. ✱

Art, schools, and the Neighborhood Matching Fund

By Shireen Deboo, Department of Neighborhoods

The Neighborhood Matching Fund has been a resource for schools and for art projects since its inception. Schools have used the Matching Fund to create computer labs, sponsor community events, and improve public areas around their campuses. Neighborhood organizations have used the Matching Fund to commission sculptures, murals, and performances. When school projects and art projects come together, it results in some of the most exciting uses for the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

This spring community businesses, residents, parents, and students of McClure Middle School joined together to hold "The Lure of McClure: A Community Arts Celebration." Students showcased visual art, garden art, and a mural created in collaboration with neighborhood elders. Latin dance, poetry reading, and musical performances were also offered. In total, there were over 30 exhibit areas and three performance stages. Local writers and artists donated their assistance as mentors to students. Local businesses sponsored the event. There were over 100 active volunteers on the project, with 395 hours of volunteer time donated. Over 500 people attended the event, which made it a huge success in its primary goal: bringing together the school community and the surrounding neighborhood.

TOPS at Seward School is collaborating with the Eastlake community to create a theater and performance space within the school gym. A Neighborhood Matching Fund award of \$22,800 is being matched with over 500 hours of volunteer labor, donated design services, and cash raised from within the community. The result will be a gym space that can be transformed for community and

school arts, music, and theater performances. Improvements will include improved acoustics, black-out curtains, additional stage lighting, and wiring for a sound control board.



The Orca School Garden features whimsical mosaics produced by students and community members with help from the Neighborhood Matching Fund.

At John Hay Elementary School, the Neighborhood Matching Fund contributed \$10,000 towards the bronze Bookworm sculpture that was part of a school beautification project in remembrance of four students killed in the Alaska Airlines crash. The school community used many art elements as

part of this project, including painted stencils, engraved pavers, and poetry. This project involved over 100 volunteers who contributed over 2,000 hours to complete work on the site. Nineteen local businesses also contributed resources to the project.



Greenwood School's Kids Garden & Bird Sketching Place features a wall mural of kids in a garden.

There are unlimited ways to bring art, schools, and communities together and the Neighborhood Matching Fund can help. If you have ideas for a project in your community, call the Department of Neighborhoods at (206) 684-0464 or go to www.cityofseattle.net/don on the Web. *

Alki neighbors bring new life to West Seattle waterfront

By Lezlie Jane, Beach Drive Shoreline Parks Committee

Cormorant Cove, a new public waterfront park in West Seattle, began as a barren empty lot with a deteriorated nine-foot rock bulkhead and no beach access. Today it features a sandy driftwood beach, landscaping with native, salt-tolerant, and drought-tolerant plants, two ADA-accessible pathways, a beach access path, and hand-launch boat access. A 250-sq.-ft. tiled viewpoint overlooks the park. It is etched with stories, donor acknowledgements, and waterfowl images and features a tiled mosaic cormorant at its center. An 18-foot bronze handrail, created with images of waves and cormorants, is installed along the access steps. The park offers a stunning view of Puget Sound and the Olympic Mountains.

Community members were the driving forces behind the City's acquisition of the site in 1995 for \$1.2 million, using Shoreline Park Improvement Funds. I represented the Alki Community Coun-



Artist and project coordinator Lezlie Jane stands near the bronze handrail she created at Cormorant Cove Park. Jane was also the driving force behind two other West Seattle street end parks: Weatherwatch Park and Constellation Cove Park.

cil and chaired the Beach Drive Shoreline Parks Committee that created a plan for the park, raised funds, and managed the public process.

The design process included broad community outreach. Four public meetings were scheduled to enable community participation and over 70 people attended each meeting. Participants included local businesses, architects, engineers, families, property owners and renters, kayak and cycling groups, and government agencies.

The construction budget for the park was \$480,000, with support from a variety of sources. The Allied Arts Foundation enabled the project to receive grants from Starbucks Coffee Company, Seattle Foundation, PJA Foundation, Satterberg Foundation, and SAFECO Foundation.

We were awarded \$108,425 from the Department of Neighborhoods' Neighborhood Matching Fund. We also received financial support from Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle Public Utilities, and King County WaterWorks. Major community partners included the Alki Community Council and the Rotary Club of West Seattle, but we enjoyed support from many individuals and businesses from the community.

In-kind professional support came from PCT Construction, Inc., Pacific NW Bulkhead, Dick Warren, Jones & Jones Architecture, Renton Technical College, and many volunteers who did everything from planting and digging to hosting meetings to making the invitations for the dedication.

Cormorant Cove Park is located at 3701 Beach Drive SW, near 61st Avenue SW. For more information, call Lezlie Jane at (206) 622-8848 or send e-mail to lezliejane@qwest.net.

CONSTELLATION PARK AND MARINE RESERVE

The Alki Community Council received two Neighborhood Matching Fund awards (\$42,483 total) that supported the development of Constellation Park, located at Richey Viewpoint (63rd Avenue SW & Beach Drive SW) in West Seattle. The park was dedicated in June 2000. It features the artwork of Lezlie Jane, including a three-foot bronze octopus in a sculpted "tide pool" on the sidewalk and a mosaic tile sign and guide to the beach ecosystem that faces the beach. Volunteer beach naturalists staff the park on designated weekends in spring and summer to help park visitors learn the ecology and etiquette of the park.



WEATHERWATCH PARK

Weatherwatch Park, a street end park at Beach Drive SW & SW Carroll Street, was once the site of a ferry dock. Still owned by SeaTran, the property was transformed by artist Lezlie Jane and West Seattle neighbors into a park in 1989. A

weathervane-topped obelisk discusses local history and meteorology and a bronze map names peaks in the Olympic Mountains. Benches and named bricks surrounded by salt-tolerant native plants

form a garden sitting room. This project received a \$20,865 award from the Neighborhood Matching Fund. ✱



Roosevelt community finds its marbles

By Deirdre Grace, Department of Neighborhoods

The Roosevelt neighborhood recently celebrated completion of a unique neighborhood art project — 15 colorful marble-wrapped signal and utility poles. The marble project has given the Roosevelt business district a signature art identity, which was a high priority in the Roosevelt neighborhood plan.

Using \$35,000 of the money allotted for early neighborhood plan project implementation by the City, the Roosevelt Neighborhood Association conducted a call for artists, selected five semi-finalists to whom they provided a stipend, and then selected Seattle artist Kevin Spitzer as their final choice.

Spitzer adhered 75,000 marbles — green, ruby, amber, clear, blue cat eye, green cat eye, yellow cat eye, and salmon cat eye — to 10-foot-tall sleeves that are now strapped onto signal and utility poles with stainless steel banding. The marbles alone weighed 2,500 pounds. Spitzer used 240 tubes of urethane adhesive and 800 pounds of cement grout to embed the marbles and gave each pole a distinctive identity.



Roosevelt Neighborhood Association activist Coral Shaffer, Bus Stop Espresso owner David Barnes, and Whole Foods manager Ron Magahand were involved in the project, as well as Roosevelt Arts Council members, business people, and neighbors. The project also received support from the Department of Neighborhoods, Seattle City Light, and Seattle Arts Commission.

For more information about the marble poles or the Roosevelt neighborhood plan, call Deirdre Grace at (206) 684-8896, send e-mail to deirdre.grace@ci.seattle.wa.us, or go to www.cityofseattle.net/don on the Web. ✱

ArtWorks program provides at-risk youth with hope for the future

By Abe Meyer, ArtWorks

ArtWorks was started in 1996 by the SODO Business Association in an attempt to address the issue of litter and graffiti. With a Neighborhood



Some murals are created on panels in studio, but others are painted on site.

Matching Fund award from the Department of Neighborhoods, a program was created to work with at-risk youth while creating murals and beautifying the area.

First known as Panels for Progress, the group's early efforts established a district-wide paint-out program and hotline focusing on involving

youth and property owners throughout the SODO's commercial industrial sector. Led by Mike Peringer, these efforts quickly led to a much larger program that would tackle the most concentrated area of graffiti in the SODO neighborhood: the King County Metro E-3 Busway.



Murals in the SODO Urban Art Corridor take the place of graffiti.

The Busway is a two-mile stretch of 5th Avenue South between Royal Brougham Way and Spokane Street that is used solely by Metro and Sound Transit buses. Now known as the SODO Urban Art Corridor, in place of graffiti, colorful murals greet more than 15,000 bus riders each day. This project goes a long

way to identify the SODO district, build community pride, and control graffiti.

The vibrant paintings are respected as quality public art. It springs from collaboration between at-risk youth and private and public organizations that support community. Beyond public art, the focus of ArtWorks is on youth. According to Rodney Camarce, lead artist, "our art provides the community with the same thing we provide for our youth — a sense of hope for the future."

ArtWorks employs, trains, and mentors at-risk youths between the ages of 14 and 18, most of whom are on probation. Working in supportive relationships with artist-mentors, youth participate

in designing, painting, and installing murals throughout Seattle as well as numerous other activities designed to develop life skills.

For most of the youth, ArtWorks is their first job. This program helps them develop the skills they need to succeed in life: responsibility, teamwork, dependability, commitment to quality, and respect. Additionally, youth participate in public speaking exercises, diversity training, group decision-making, job skills classes, creative writing, and as project leaders. As a result, youth are nurtured while brightening communities throughout the city.

Since 1996, more than 300 at-risk youth have received mentoring, arts education, and job training at ArtWorks. Their biggest success is that most of the youth in the program do not re-offend and leave prepared for their next step in life. Our murals are essentially a medium for working with youth that provides experiences and opportunities far beyond art skills training.

In addition to working with at-risk youth, ArtWorks leads mural projects with schools and youth groups, and has engaged more than 700 kids. ArtWorks has created over 150 murals in the past several years with enough public art created to cover three football fields! Not all murals are displayed on the Urban Art Corridor: paintings also brighten up construction sites, schools, parks, and businesses.

This summer, ArtWorks will add three new murals to the bus corridor. Each mural represents a relationship between youth artists, business organizations, and SODO property owners that collaborate with ArtWorks. Sound Transit, Pacific Coast Feather, and Frye Properties are among the many mural sponsors that help make it all possible.

With the continued public and private support for ArtWorks and the SODO Urban Art Corridor, the number of murals along the Busway continues to grow and the program continues to support hard-to-serve youth in our communities.

For more information or to get involved, call Abe Meyer, Executive Director, at (206) 292-4142 or send e-mail to urbanartworks@uswest.net. *

Students transform Wallingford Playfield gardens with native plants

By Laurie Ames, Department of Neighborhoods

Little by little the Wallingford Playfield is being transformed. The latest addition to the park is the creation of a native plant garden on the west slope. This planting project is the result of a partnership between Neighbors of the West Slope and Hamilton Middle School students with the goal of beautifying and preserving this section of the park. The project is funded by a Neighborhood Matching Fund Small and Simple Projects Fund award.

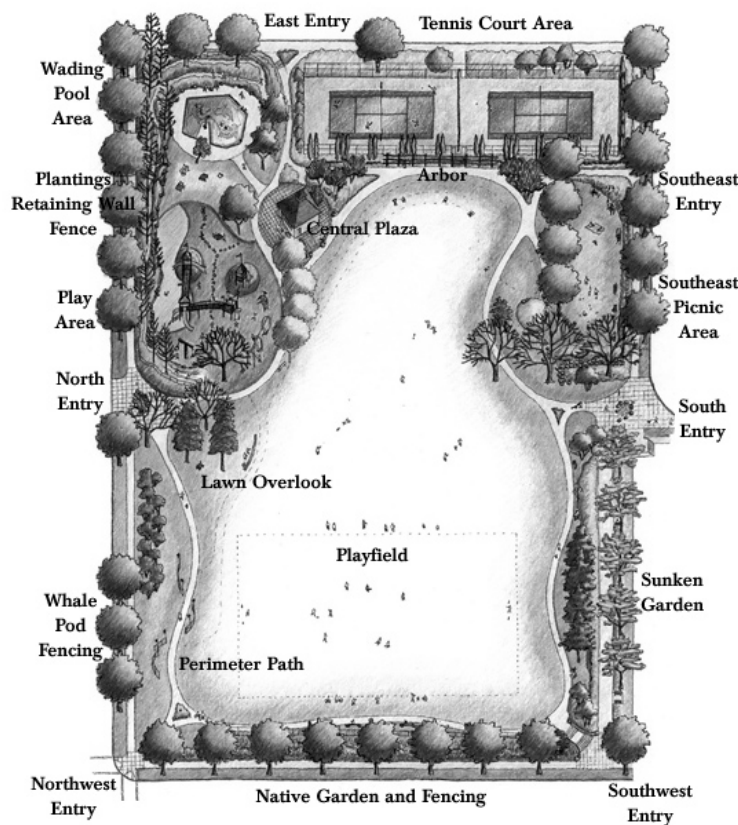
This spring students at Hamilton Middle School got a first hand lesson in native plants, design, and planting. Working with staff from Seattle Parks and Recreation, a native plants specialist, and a landscape architect, 100 students developed eight different plans for the site. These plans were then reviewed and distilled into a manageable planting plan.

Students and neighbors tilled the soil and planted hundreds of plants over a period of several days. The garden will serve as a hands-on classroom for the community at large, providing a space in which students and residents can learn more about local plants and habitat.

According to Bill Levin, the teacher who spearheaded the service learning project with the students, "this is what education is all about." The

students went on to create Native Plants Garden at Wallingford Park at www.seattleschools.org/schools/hamilton/Plants/plants.htm on the Web. For project benefits, the students listed the collaborative process between school and community, habitat restoration, resource conservation, creation of a living classroom, and esthetic value, as well as "breaking stereotypes about kids."

The second phase of the west slope planting project – adding more trees and shrubs – will be implemented this fall. Other fall projects include improvements to the south end of the park, thanks to the hard work of the Friends of Wallingford Playfield. Also funded by the Neighborhood Matching Fund, that project will include creation of a picnic and lawn sports area in the existing horseshoe pit area and a sunken garden landscaped with native plants along the southwest portion



tion of the path adjacent to Hamilton Middle School. A volunteer contractor, Bill Parks of Crocus Development, generously donated labor and materials to remove and rebuild the set of stairs at the entrance to the Sunken Garden.

For more information about these projects, call Laurie Ames, Neighborhood Matching Fund, at (206) 684-0320 or send e-mail to laurie.ames@ci.seattle.wa.us. *

Coming to a neighborhood near you: Community Nights in Schools

by Sandra Boas-Du Pree, Seattle Parks and Recreation and Amy Glenn, Department of Neighborhoods

Community Nights In Schools is a new innovative pilot program that will help neighborhood and community groups to more easily use schools for meetings and gatherings when school is not in session. This program was inspired by the neighborhood plans, which identified lack of inexpensive meeting and gathering places as a big problem. The City of Seattle and Seattle Public Schools have been working together to design and imple-

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

- Ballard High School
- Chief Sealth High School
- Madison Middle School
- Pathfinder (K-8)
- B.F. Day Elementary
- Concord Elementary
- Dearborn Park Elementary
- Kimball Elementary
- Leschi Elementary
- Olympic View Elementary
- Wedgwood Elementary
- West Woodland Elementary

TENTATIVE PARTICIPANTS:

- Franklin High School
- Eckstein Middle School
- Hamilton Middle School
- Hawthorne Elementary
- John Muir Elementary
- Whitworth Elementary

Other schools will be contacted following the summer break.

ment a pilot project so that more schools will be available for use by neighborhood and community groups in the evenings.

The City has hired a half-time coordinator, Sandra Boas-Du Pree, to run the program and do the scheduling. The participating schools are ones that already have evening custodians in buildings that are more energy-efficient. Therefore, during the pilot project, which runs through December 2002, there will be no or very minimal costs to groups meeting at schools through the Community Nights in Schools program.

One of the most important aspects of setting up this program is to better understand the need for use of schools by community groups. Sandra has talked with community council presidents from various neighborhoods. Many are frustrated with paying expensive rental fees to hold meetings in

their neighborhoods. Although there are community centers in many neighborhoods, availability is often limited. Also, noise created by other community center activities can make it difficult to hold meetings.

Some say that neighborhood schools are not available. However, some community councils report that schools in their neighborhoods are very hospitable and the best places to meet. Consistency and predictability in the response from schools participating in this program is one of the major goals of Community Nights in Schools.

Some schools are reluctant to host community meetings, citing valid concerns about security, maintenance, and lack of space. Therefore, we are providing good security and maintenance policies.

In addition, schools are in need of volunteers and resources, and neighborhood groups can help. Although not required, we're hoping that neighborhood groups that use schools through this pilot project will choose to help the school by volunteering or purchasing items needed by the students. Sandra has asked participating schools to provide a list of needs that can be passed on to community groups. Each group using school meeting space will be informed of those needs and encouraged to volunteer their time and resources. Groups that use school property for free or at minimal charge should be inclined to help.

The goal is to have the Community Nights in Schools program up and running in the fall. Constant monitoring will be necessary to ensure that issues from schools and community groups are addressed appropriately. Building relationships between neighborhoods and schools will make Community Nights in Schools a success.

For more information or if you want to get involved in Community Nights in Schools, call Sandra Boas-Du Pree at (206) 615-1812 or send e-mail to sandra.boas-dupree@ci.seattle.wa.us. *

Neighborhood Leadership Program gears up for fall workshops and services

By Mickey Fearn, Neighborhood Leadership Program

The Neighborhood Leadership Program is a partnership that brings together citizens to enhance public engagement and learn new skills. By mobilizing community resources, creating learning opportunities, providing consulting assistance, and developing information and materials that maximize time, energy, and expertise, the program helps neighborhood organizations to be both inclusive and effective.

Since the program began nearly 18 months ago, hundreds of citizens have benefited from over 30 capacity building classes and events to help them more successfully engage in neighborhood action. Topics have ranged from productive meetings to fundraising techniques to project management, following a curriculum plan mapped out by numerous community activists and involved Seattle citizens.

The program has also provided over 70 hours of hands-on technical assistance to community councils, project teams, and other neighborhood groups, tailored to solve specific challenges and problems, including the Longfellow Creek Legacy Trail Project; Greater Duwamish District Council; Magnuson Community Garden; Pioneer Square Community Council; Mt. Baker Community Club; Rainier Beach Neighborhood; Madrona Neighborhood; and the Little Saigon Traffic Summit.

As the Neighborhood Leadership Program gears up for fall, an even greater emphasis is being placed on integrating skill development with neighborhood action. Neighborhood Leadership Program offerings will continue to be based on sound and proven organizational development and community development principles. Our organizational development activities are designed to help neighborhoods create efficient, effective, and sustainable organizations. Our community development activities will result in developing the capacity for people to deal effectively with their neighborhoods and ensure that neighborhood activities are committed to addressing clearly articulated and neighborhood-driven needs.

Two special events will be held this fall for the first time. In collaboration with the appropriate community organizations, the Neighborhood Leadership Program will sponsor community discussions regarding the experience and challenges of neighborhood engagement in the African-American and first-generation Americans communities.

In addition to repeating some of the most popular courses, the Neighborhood Leadership Program will offer the following courses for the first time:

- Community-Building Demystified: Principles, Steps, and Methods
- Activating the Leader in Everyone: Personal Power in Neighborhood Groups
- Grassroots in the Ivory Tower: Using Community Power in City Hall
- Development by Design: How to Shape the Things to Come
- Virtual Neighbors: Using Technology to Build Community

Working in collaboration with its Advisory Board, Neighborhood Development Managers, Neighborhood Service Center Coordinators, and other Department of Neighborhoods staff, the Neighborhood Leadership Program is initiating collaborative projects that bring together neighborhood organizations, recreation advisory councils, public schools, chambers of commerce, and Friends of the Library groups. The program is looking into developing a neighborhood "experts exchange" that will help put seasoned community activists in touch with neighborhoods that can benefit from their experience. In addition, the program is offering "classes on demand." Any neighborhood organization can request a specific skill building workshop if they can guarantee an enrollment of twenty. Citizens from other neighborhoods will also be invited to participate in the workshop. In addition, any neighborhood can request technical assistance. The Neighborhood Leadership Program can provide professional consultants to assist neighborhood organizations in meeting their challenges.

For more information, call Randy Wiger, Department of Neighborhoods, at (206) 684-0719, or send e-mail to randy.wiger@ci.seattle.wa.us. ✱

SPICE name change is part of a major transition

By Joan Burnett, *Success in Providing Intergenerational Community Enrichment (SPICE)*

Coordinators at the Fremont Public Association's SPICE program have been working to transform school-based senior centers at Whittier Elementary School, McClure Middle School, and Nathan Hale High School into vital and innovative intergenerational centers. Program goals include promotion of meaningful relationships between senior adults and young people, enhancement of student learning and development, and provision of a broad range of opportunities for senior volunteers to share their special interests, knowledge, and skills.

To better reflect the new program focus, the full name of the program has been changed. SPICE is now "Success in Providing Intergenerational Community Enrichment."



SPICE coordinators are working closely with school personnel to identify ways in which intergenerational activities can be used to enhance students learning, serving as resources for busy teachers, and helping to organize intergenerational activities that address specific educational needs of their students.

Seniors at Whittier SPICE in Ballard participate in a "reading buddies" program. First-grade students and their senior partners take turns reading parts of stories. The volunteers help young readers find meaning on the printed page and share their love of books. SPICE volunteers also work with preschool children in the Head Start program co-located at Whittier. A favorite activity is intergenerational bingo,

which helps the children learn numbers and letters, practice listening skills, and follow directions. Other Whittier students and senior volunteers got to know one another as they made fleece socks to donate to people in need.

On Queen Anne, SPICE volunteers have been sharing life experiences and cultural knowledge with McClure Middle School students. Each month, an informal intergenerational discussion is held during lunch at which students and seniors

MCCLURE SPICE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

"Students had real practice in the skill of taking oral histories. They also learned that history lives inside the lives of participants. Each person had a warm interaction with a person they would have never met without this activity. Without a doubt, this activity would rank in the top 5 of all things I have done in the classroom."

— Mr. Soble, McClure Teacher

"The interaction/conversation with the student was the highlight of the activity. Brought back lots of memories."

— SPICE participant

"A lot of old people are cool!"

— Student participant

discuss topics like films and hobbies. SPICE volunteers also participated in oral history interviews conducted by students in collaboration with the Queen Anne Historical Society. Soon McClure SPICE seniors, students, and a professional artist will collaborate on the design and painting of panels for a bus shelter.

Intergenerational activities at Nathan Hale SPICE in Northeast Seattle have involved students of various ages. SPICE volunteers and first-grade stu-

dents from nearby John Rogers Elementary School participate in regular reading activities. SPICE volunteers speak to high school classes on various topics, including recollections of historical events and personal perspectives on the aging process. Hale SPICE volunteers, students, and a local artist are collaborating on a social justice mural project.

Informal social activities are viewed as an important step in community building at Nathan Hale SPICE. At lunchtime, Hale students join SPICE seniors to play pool, an activity that encourages intergenerational dialogues.

All three SPICE centers offer a popular program called "Computer Pals," which has been developed and coordinated by Intergenerational Innovations. In this program, older students teach computer skills to SPICE seniors who in turn exchange e-mail with younger students.

Each SPICE center offers opportunities for senior adults to engage in traditional tutoring. This is an important need at all school sites.

New intergenerational activities are being developed all the time. For more information, call the

SPICE INTERGENERATIONAL CENTERS

WHITTIER SPICE

1320 NW 75th Street
(206) 252-1693

MCCLURE SPICE

1915 1st Avenue West
(206) 378-2706

HALE SPICE

10750 30th Avenue NE
(206) 252-3797

SPICE program office at (206) 634-3605 x3173, send e-mail to victoriag@fremontpublic.org, go to www.fremontpublic.org/client/senior.html on the Web or visit the SPICE center nearest you. ✱

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Council approves Neighborhood Plan Opportunity Fund projects

By Rebecca Herzfeld, Department of Neighborhoods

In July, the City Council approved Mayor Paul Schell's recommendation for funding of five new time-sensitive projects that are high priorities in neighborhood plans. These projects are funded from the \$509,000 Opportunity Fund in the City's 2001 budget. The funding will support creation of a food bank in Lake City, planning for business district development in Greenwood, pedestrian improvements in North Broadway, improvements to help control Fauntleroy ferry traffic, and creation of a pedestrian plaza at the head of the Mapes Creek Walkway in Rainier Beach.

The Opportunity Fund was created to support projects that could not be funded in a timely manner through any other available fund source and is used only when immediate funding will prevent loss of the opportunity to implement the project. Projects that are already included in a City department Capital Improvement Program or operating budget are not eligible for Opportunity Fund dollars.

The projects serve seven neighborhoods, six of which did not have an Opportunity Fund project last year. Each project reflects a high priority in a neighborhood plan and will leverage additional community resources.

Awards for the five successful projects have a combined total of \$319,668.

CREATION OF A NORTH HELPLINE FOOD BANK IN LAKE CITY

Funding will help the North Helpline, a nonprofit resource and referral agency, buy basic food bank equipment and shelving to establish a new food bank in Lake City.

"The Helpline previously referred clients to a food bank in Shoreline that no longer serves Seattle residents," said Deirdre Grace, NE Neighborhood Development Manager. "Now the closest food bank is in the U-District, yet Lake City has a growing population of families struggling to make

ends meet. Forty-five percent of the Lake City Fred Meyer shoppers are paying for groceries with some sort of public assistance. In addition, public schools in this area show a high percentage of children utilizing the reduced or free lunch programs."

Lake City's Neighborhood Plan, drawn up by neighborhood residents and business people in the late '90s, targeted improved and adequate social services as one of their priorities. The North Helpline will operate the food bank for at least one year while they develop a strategic plan and identify a permanent location.

"This service especially aids the elderly and families with young children, who together make up nearly 70% of current food bank clientele in this area and who are particularly challenged in traveling long distances," said Grace.

CONCEPTUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE GREENWOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT

Funding will support creation of a Greenwood Business District Conceptual Development Plan, implementing a key Greenwood/Phinney neighborhood plan strategy of developing and refining a town center.

"The plan will result in a functionally and visually coherent scheme for the Greenwood Business District," said Phil Fujii, NW Neighborhood Development Manager. "The plan will include a land use analysis showing optimal usage, street design guidelines, and design guidelines for private development. It will also address pedestrian and vehicular traffic circulation, parking, business retention, and new business opportunities."

NORTH BROADWAY PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

Funding will support pedestrian right-of-way improvements that will dovetail with private development of a mixed-use building at Broadway Avenue East & East Roy Street, the north end of the Broadway commercial corridor.

"Neighborhood residents and business people that

drew up the Capitol Hill Neighborhood Plan endorsed development at this site as the gateway to the Broadway business district,” said Darlene Flynn, East Neighborhood Development Manager. “This former gas station site has been vacant for years, and the current developer’s plans would create the town center that Capitol Hill neighbors have envisioned there. This award will make it easier for pedestrians to get there, as outlined in the neighborhood plan.”

IMPROVEMENTS TO HELP CONTROL FAUNTLEROY FERRY TRAFFIC

Funding will support construction of a landscaped curb bulb, new signage, striping, and an analysis of whether a signal is warranted at the intersection of Fauntleroy Way SW & SW Othello Street, where



Ferry traffic has had a serious impact on the Fauntleroy neighborhood and the problem continues to grow.

the Vashon ferry queue impedes traffic and access to surrounding neighborhoods.

“Ferry traffic has been increasing for years,” said Roger Valdez, SW Neighborhood Development Manager. “As a result, it no longer impacts Fauntleroy alone, but Morgan Junction and the entire West Seattle community. This funding will help direct the ferry queue so that it doesn’t clog Lincoln Park Way and other neighborhood streets.”

MAPES CREEK WALKWAY PEDESTRIAN PLAZA

Funding will support creation of Henderson Plaza at the north end of the Mapes Creek Walkway, located in an unopened City right-of-way at approximately 52nd Avenue South. Construction of the plaza is the first phase a multi-phase approach at improving the safety and aesthetics of this pedestrian corridor.

“The walkway is used heavily by school-aged youth and by area residents accessing grocery stores, restaurants, and other services,” said Sally Clark, SE Neighborhood Development Manager. “Henderson Plaza will provide an open, well-lit place for sitting and gathering and connect the walkway to Henderson Street and to the pathway into the newly renovated Rainier Beach High School Athletic Complex.”

The Opportunity Fund will allow the neighborhood group that’s designing the plaza to take advantage of work SeaTran (Seattle Transportation) will perform adjacent to the future plaza site. SeaTran plans to install curb bulbs and make crosswalk improvements at Henderson Street in the near future.

The balance remaining in the Opportunity Fund for 2001 is \$189,332. The next round of projects will be funded in October.

For more information regarding the neighborhood Opportunity Fund, contact the Neighborhood Development Manager for your area. *

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Pro Parks levy projects, programs get under way

By David Takami, Seattle Parks and Recreation

More activities for teen-agers. Cleaner park restrooms that are open longer hours. The purchase of precious open space in dense city neighborhoods. More kids from low-income families participating in zoo programs. Improvements to park sports fields, trails, and playgrounds.

These are some of the projects and services made possible by the Pro Parks 2000 levy. In June, the City Council voted unanimously to fund the first two years of levy activity, including 62 acquisition and development projects, new Parks staff positions, and purchase of necessary equipment.

Seattle Parks and Recreation has also developed a management plan for implementing the levy program in a timely and cost-effective way.

"Pro Parks is already having an impact," said Parks Superintendent Ken Bounds. "Parks have been cleaned more often during times of peak use; teens have had more programs and activities this summer; and we're getting started on key park improvements and green space acquisitions."

The initial slate of levy projects and programs was derived from recommendations by the Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee, a panel of 16 citizens charged with advising the Parks Department on levy implementation. The Levy Oversight Commit-



The Genesee Playfield Improvement Project is one of the first Pro Parks projects to get under way.

Photo by Eric Gold

tee is also developing criteria and an application process for the \$5 million first cycle of the Pro Parks Levy Opportunity Fund (see sidebar).

Seattle voters approved the eight-year \$198.2 million Pro Parks Levy in November 2000. The Pro Parks Citizens Committee worked for 10 months to develop a levy package. Located in neighborhoods throughout the city, the projects were selected based on priorities in 38 neighborhood plans, the Seattle Parks and Recreation Plan, the Joint Athletic Facilities Development Plan, the Urban Trails Plan, and various park master plans. The committee also considered hundreds of public comments.

The Pro Parks Levy Program will fund a variety of programs and projects over the next eight years, including park improvements and neighborhood parkland purchases; green space acquisition, recreation programs, environmental stewardship, enhanced park maintenance, and programming and maintenance at the Woodland Park Zoo.

OTHER PRO PARKS LEVY AND SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION WEB LINKS THAT MAY BE HELPFUL INCLUDE:

PRO PARKS LEVY

[www.cityofseattle.net/parks/
communitynotices/Levy.htm](http://www.cityofseattle.net/parks/communitynotices/Levy.htm)

2001-2002 PRO PARKS LEVY PROJECTS

www.cityofseattle.net/parks/proparks/proparksmmap1.htm

SEATTLE PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN 2000 AND SEATTLE OPEN SPACE GAP ANALYSIS

www.cityofseattle.net/parks/projects/index.htm
Scroll down right column for link.



For more information, call Seattle Parks and Recreation at (206) 684-8020 or go to www.cityofseattle.net/parks on the Web. ✱

LEVY OPPORTUNITY FUND: FIRST FUNDING CYCLE TO BEGIN

When Seattle voters approved the Pro Parks Levy in November, it included a \$10 million Opportunity Fund intended to fund unforeseen park development projects and land acquisition opportunities. The Pro Parks Levy Oversight Committee has recommended that the Opportunity Fund include two funding cycles: one in 2001-2002 and another funding cycle mid-way through the eight-year levy.

This summer, the Oversight Committee drafted criteria to evaluate and select Opportunity Fund projects. Later this fall, the Committee will be accepting nominations from citizens and community groups for potential park acquisition and development projects to be funded through the first cycle of the Opportunity Fund.

For more information about the Oversight Committee or the Opportunity Fund, call Catherine Anstett at (206) 615-0386, send e-mail to catherine.anstett@ci.seattle.wa.us, or go to www.ci.seattle.wa.us/parks/communitynotices/levycommittee.asp on the Web.

Wanted: TLC for Neighborhood Traffic Circles

By Laurie Ames, Department of Neighborhoods

Traffic circles. Some people love them. Some people don't. However you feel about them, traffic circles are here: hundreds of them exist on Seattle neighborhood streets. Some are in sad shape from neglect, with dead or vandalized plants and trees, or they are overgrown. And they need your tender loving care!

Here's an opportunity to spruce up your local traffic circle: The Department of Neighborhoods, in collaboration with SeaTran, is sponsoring a special initiative to improve Seattle traffic circles. Neighborhood groups consisting of at least four households can apply to the Small and Simple Projects Fund (part of the Neighborhood Matching Fund) for cash awards of up to \$500 per traffic circle project. Work must conform to SeaTran guidelines and be performed in consultation with Liz Ellis from the Urban Forestry office.



The Department of Neighborhoods will provide an application, a list of steps involved, a budget template with estimated costs, and a list of recommended drought-tolerant plants. Funds will be provided up front but a final report will be required when the work is completed. What could be easier?

There are two application deadlines this fall: Monday, September 17 and Monday, November 19. Project award decisions will be made approximately two weeks after the application deadline.

To get an application, call Laurie Ames, Department of Neighborhoods, at (206) 684-0320 or send e-mail to laurie.ames@ci.seattle.wa.us or call Liz Ellis, SeaTran, at (206) 684-5008 or send e-mail to liz.ellis@ci.seattle.wa.us.

And coming up in spring 2002: a competition for most-improved traffic circles, with prizes in various categories. Don't miss out on your chance to compete! We'll keep you posted as plans develop. Stay tuned! ✱

Subscribe now to Seattle Neighborhood e-News

By Irene Stewart, Department of Neighborhoods

Now you can get news about neighborhood programs, projects, and events by e-mail! Seattle Neighborhood e-News, a new electronic newsletter intended to supplement this newsletter and other printed publications of the Department of Neighborhoods, was launched in July. Early issues have included information on Neighborhood Matching Fund and Neighborhood Opportunity Fund awards, reminders about upcoming application deadlines, and links to reports and on-line articles of interest to neighborhood activists.

Seattle Neighborhood e-News won't take the place of the

department's regular publications, because Seattleites don't have universal access to e-mail. But more and more, neighborhood leaders are communicating with members and mobilizing resources by e-mail. What's more, e-News

costs next to nothing to publish and it can be forwarded in the click of a mouse.

Seattle Neighborhood e-News will be published periodically, primarily between delivery of other printed publications. To subscribe, go to www.cityofseattle.net/lists.htm

on the Web or send e-mail to neighborhoodnews-subscribe@list.ci.seattle.wa.us. *



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